

## Energy Resources

**Note 1.** These volumes are the sum of the respective mean estimates in United States Geological Survey, *1995 National Assessment of United States Oil and Gas Resources*, Circular 1118 (Washington DC, 1995), pp. 2 and 17-19, for the onshore United States and State jurisdiction offshore waters, and in Minerals Management Services, *Outer Continental Shelf Petroleum Assessment, 2000* (Washington DC, 2001), for the Federal jurisdiction offshore (<http://www.mms.gov/revaldiv/RedNatAssessment.htm>).

Conventionally reservoired deposits are discrete subsurface accumulations of crude oil or natural gas usually defined, controlled, or limited by hydrocarbon/water contacts. Unconventionally reservoired deposits (continuous-type accumulations) are geographically extensive subsurface accumulations of crude oil or natural gas that generally lack well-defined hydrocarbon/water contacts. Examples include coalbed methane, “tight gas,” and auto-sourced oil- and gas-shale reservoirs. Ultimate recovery appreciation (reserve growth) is the volume by which the estimate of total recovery from a known oil or gas reservoir or aggregation of such reservoirs

is expected to increase during the time between discovery and permanent abandonment.

For purposes of comparison, the Potential Gas Committee, an industry-sponsored group of experts, biennially provides another geologically-based estimate of the Nation’s natural gas resources. The latest mean estimate, published in “Potential Supply of Natural Gas in the United States,” December 31, 2000, is 1,091 trillion cubic feet. This volume includes undiscovered conventionally reservoired deposits, expected ultimate recovery appreciation, coalbed methane, and tight gas where it is believed to be technically recoverable and marketable at reasonable costs.

**Note 2.** For 1970 forward, annual well completions are estimated by EIA based on individual well reports submitted to the American Petroleum Institute (1970-1994) and to Petroleum Information/Dwights LLC (1995 forward). The as-received well completion data for recent years are incomplete due to delays in the reporting of wells drilled. EIA therefore statistically imputes the missing data to provided estimates of total well completions and footage where necessary.